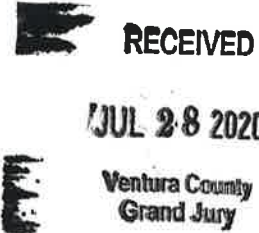




City of Ojai
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July 22, 2020

Ventura County Grand Jury
Richard Boehmer, Foreperson
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009


Re: Response to Grand Jury Report: Human Trafficking in Ventura County dated April 8, 2020

Dear Mr. Boehmer:

The City of Ojai received the 2019-2020 Grand Jury Report "Human Trafficking in Ventura County". In accordance with Penal Code Section 933.05, we submit this response to the Grand Jury findings and recommendations.

Please see attached responses to the Grand Jury conclusion C-03, C-04, and recommendation R-01, R-02.

Sincerely,



James Vega
City Manger, City of Ojai

**GRAND JURY REPORT CONCLUSIONS
AND CITY OF OJAI CITY COUNCIL RESPONSES**

GRAND JURY CONCLUSION C-03:

C-03. The Grand Jury concluded that differences in county and city massage parlor ordinances allow illicit businesses to avoid legal consequences. (FA-22, FA-23).

CITY COUNCIL RESPONSE TO CONCLUSION C-03:

We respectfully disagree with conclusion C-3. The Ventura County Sheriff's Office (VCSO), is the contract law enforcement agency for the City of Ojai. Legal consequences are currently in place for illicit massage parlors currently through existing city and county ordinances and state law. Eliminating differences in city and county ordinances for massage parlors could allow for more local uniform and simplified standards for enforcement between law enforcement jurisdictions.

GRAND JURY CONCLUSION C-04:

C-04. The Grand Jury concluded that coordinating ordinances regarding massage parlors among the County and cities within the County will improve the effectiveness of enforcement operations (FA-23, FA-24).

CITY COUNCIL RESPONSE TO CONCLUSION C-02:

We agree with conclusion C-04. Eliminating differences in city and county ordinances for massage parlors and recommendations for more uniform and simplified standards for effectiveness of enforcement operations would necessitate cities and the County to collaborate for review and development of changes. City Councils and the Ventura County Board of Supervisors would require necessary approvals for changes to their respective ordinances

**GRAND JURY REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS
AND CITY OF OJAI CITY COUNCIL RESPONSES**

GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATION R-01:

R-01. The Grand Jury recommends the County and each of the cities within the County coordinate their respective ordinances regarding massage parlors through efforts of the Task Force

CITY COUNCIL RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATION R-01:

The Ventura County Human Trafficking Task Force will take a leadership role in the formation of a working group to evaluate, modify, and recommend changes to pre-existing massage parlor ordinances in the cities of Ventura County and the unincorporated areas. The working group will consist of representatives from each city government, City Attorneys, City Code Compliance, Ventura County Resource Management Agency, the District Attorney's Office, stakeholders in the

City of Ojai Council Responses to Ventura County Grand Jury Final Report: Human Trafficking in Ventura County dated April 8, 2020

massage industry and community representatives. Detectives from the Human Trafficking Task Force have already evaluated each cities' ordinance and drafted proposed guidelines and changes.

The goal of the working group will be to create common minimum standards / requirements for each city/ county ordinance while recognizing that each city or area has different needs and community concerns. It will also be imperative to include the legitimate massage industry professionals as to not overburden them with regulations.